(a) what is the number of deaths which took place in Delhi till date, due to gastro-enteritis and cholera during this month;

(b) what steps Government have taken to check spread of the epidemic; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint a committee to enquire the reasons for spread of epidemic in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) 105 deaths have been reported from various hospitals in Delhi from 1st to 22nd July, 1988.

(b) Steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease include surveillance and monitoring of the cases, supply of safe drinking water to the affected areas, safe disposal of garbage heaps, desilting of drains, anti-cholera inoculations in the affected area, health education to create public awareness and disinfection of the wells and testing of the water samples, distribution of hallogen tablets to the affected people and supply of ORS packets for the prevention of dehydration and setting up mobile dispensaries and early hospitalization of cases.

(c) No.

Debt owed to Government by Shipping Industry

175. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total accumulated debt owed by the Shipping Industry to Government by way of loans and interest thereon; and

(b) what measures are being contemplated by Government for revival of the Shipping Industry which is seriously affected by recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The total accumulated debt owed by the Shipping Industry to Government on account of loans both by Private and Public sector is Rs. 885.52 crores as on 31-3-1988. A sum of Rs. 102.71 crores on account of interest is also owed to the Government by the Private sector companies as on 31-12-1987.

(b) The recent measures taken by the Government to revive shipping industry include providing financial assistance to viable shipping companies through rehabilitation proposals, helping shipping companies to get increased share of Indian cargo, simplifying procedures for acquisition and scrapping of vessels encouraging acquisition of specialised, modern fuel-efficient vessels etc. The guidelines framed by the Government with the help of Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited for rehabilitation of viable Private Sector shipping companies include moratorium on repayment of loans, interest holiday for a limited period, rescheduling the repayments of loans etc. These measures would help the potentially viable shiping companies to overcome the adverse effects of the long global recession and lead to the creation of a stronger and financially viable shipping industry.

Cut in the Capacity of Indian Airlines

176. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines has decided to cut down its capacity as the utilisation of its fleet is being reduced to 2900 hours instead of 3100 hours, being done so far by the 27 strong Boeing 737 fleet operated by it;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what is the number of flights to be stopped or merged or their frequency reduced; and

(c) whether the outgoing Board of Indian Airlines has taken any decision in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The outgoing Board of Indian Airlines had desired that the utilisation of aircraft should be kept to the optimum level on account of shorter legs to avoid delays and disruptions. With a view to maintain the existing services and in public interest, there is no proposal at present, to reduce the utilisation of B-737 aircraft as reduction in utilisation would result in cancellation of some flights.

Review of the contract to purchase Airbus-320

177. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines propose to review the contract to purchase 19 Airbus (A-320), if a technical snags is found responsible for the crashing of this type of aircraft into trees at per this year, airshow in France on June 26, if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) whether Indian Airlines have requested Air France to provide it with monthly performance reports of its Airbus A-320 fleet, if so, whether it has received any such report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIV RAJ PATIL): (a) One of the Airbus A-320 aircraft fitted with CFM-56 engine of Air France crashed into the trees in France on the 26th June, 1988 while on a demonstration flight. The aircraft was totally destroyed. Preliminary investigations have revealed that the accident was due to human error and the aircraft system and engines were performing satisfactorily at the time of the accident. Airbus A-320 aircraft being acquired by Indian Airlines will be fitted with V-2500 engine, manufactured by International Aero Engines. This engine has been type-certified by Federal Aviation Administration of USA after successful completion of all the tests. In view of this, at present, there is no proposal to review the contract for purchase of Airbus A-320 aircraft by Indian Airlines.

(b) Air France commenced commercial operation with Airbus A-320 aircraft in April, 1988. The technical data of the performance of the fleet of all operators is compiled by M/s. Airbus Industries, the manufacturers of Airbus A-320 and supplied to the operators. Since Airbus A-320 aircraft has entered commercial operations only recently, no report has been received as yet.

Helicopter Crash near Vaishnodevi Complex

178. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the crash of the Pawan Hans helicopter near Vaishnodevi Complex on July 14, 1988; and